CISTUS LADANIFER AS A SOURCE OF PHENOLIC COMPOUNDS WITH ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY

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A screening of the antifungal potential of phenolic extract of *Cistus ladanifer* from Northeast Portugal, against *Candida* species was performed. The extract was characterized by HPLC-DAD-ESI/MS. Phenolic acids and derivatives, ellagic acid derivatives and flavonoids, such as catechins, flavonols and flavones, were found in the sample. The most abundant group was ellagic acid derivatives in which punicalagin gallate, a derivative of punicalagin attached to gallic acid, was found in highest amount. These compounds could be related to the strong inhibition of *C. albicans*, *C. glabrata* and *C. parapsilosis* growth. Moreover, the best antifungal activity was against *C. glabrata*, where the studied extract was able to cause at least 3 Log of reduction at concentrations below 50 μg/mL and a total growth inhibition at concentrations above 625 μg/mL.

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